

approaching *maritima*. Clayquot is on the west coast of Vancouver Island in about latitude 49-15'. This forms the first record for this subspecies within the Dominion.

Scotiaptex nebulosa (Forster), GREAT GRAY OWL. Breeding records of this species are rare enough to make note of a bird recently received by the Museum. It is a young bird just changing from the natal down into the juvenal and first winter plumages. Patches of the former remain on all parts of the body but interspersed freely with the latter two. The natal down plumage is dull brown, made hoary by the lighter tips to the feathers. The underparts, wings, back of the neck and facial disk are barred with yellowish gray. The juvenal plumage includes the large flight and tail feathers which are as in first winter coloration. The remainder of the plumage is heavily barred with an ochraceous gray more yellow on the back of the neck and shoulders than elsewhere. The bars average about half an inch wide and the same distance apart. The first winter plumage shows but here and there in small patches and is about as generally seen in winter specimens.

The large wing and tail feathers are well formed and the bird was evidently capable of short flights. However it had not left the nest long nor was it able to fend for itself. Another in like plumage was taken at the same time so the brood had evidently not separated and I think we are justified in concluding that the nesting site was not far distant from the place of capture.

These birds were killed July 31, 1911, in the township of Chisholm, Nipissing District, Ont., by Mayor Kelly of Powassan, Ont. Chisholm township lies about five miles east of the extreme eastern corner of Lake Nipissing, extending south and east from that point.—P. A. TAVERNER, *Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa, Ont.*

Some Erroneous Wisconsin Bird Records.— In 'The Auk' for April, 1911, and again in the issue for April, 1912, Mr. Henry K. Coale refers to a pamphlet published in 1902 on 'Birds of Oconto County,' by A. J. Schoenebeck, and republishes some records for Wisconsin which seem to call for further consideration. After first reading Mr. Schoenebeck's list in 1903, I wrote him regarding certain records and received from him prompt and courteous replies, with full accounts of these extraordinary finds. Now that some of the most questionable have received the wide circulation and dignity of 'General Notes,' in 'The Auk' it seems necessary to publish what I have regarding them. Mr. Schoenebeck's absolute honesty and sincerity of belief in these records, at the time, is not to be questioned. It is purely a matter of mistaken identification, and it is a great pity that not one of the questionable records is backed up by a preserved specimen. Had not Mr. Coale republished them in 'The Auk' with the statement that most of the species recorded in Mr. Schoenebeck's original list were preserved in Mr. Schoenebeck's collection, I should have much preferred to say nothing about them.

The record of the Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (Auk, April, 1911, p. 276 and April, 1912, p. 238) several hundred miles beyond its known limits, and near the extreme eastern distribution of the Prairie Sharp-tail, seems so strange that I was surprised to see it seriously considered by Mr. Coale. Mr. Schoenebeck wrote me, under date of December 28, 1903, regarding this record: "On a collecting trip in October, 1897, I shot a pin-tail grouse of a very dark color, which we supposed to be *columbianus*. The skin was prepared and two days afterward we lost it, our collecting outfit, and tent by fire."

As to the Black Rail near the mouth of Oconto River, June 9, 1899 (Auk, April, 1911, p. 276) I have the following from Mr. Schoenebeck: "I have only seen this little rail running over dead reeds, but was satisfied that it was *P. jamaicensis*." This sounds to me much more like the young of the Coot, Gallinule, or King Rail; it may have been the Black Rail, but it is far north of its usual range and I hardly think the record should stand. Regarding the Eskimo Curlew (l. c., p. 276): "This specimen brought to me in April, 1899, was so badly spoiled that it was impossible to do anything with it, but the V mark on the breast shows that it was a true *N. borealis*." As a record for a bird virtually extinct at the date, and known from the state, even in the early years of its abundance, only as a very rare straggler, this identification seems open to question.

Of the specimen of the Anhinga (l. c., p. 276) Mr. Schoenebeck wrote me: "In the spring of 1889, Doctor Lawrence brought me this bird *in the skin*, but nearly fresh; claimed to be shot on the Green Bay shore; the skin was not made by an expert, it was only roughly made. The glossy black on the upper parts proved it to be a male. I do not know if Doctor Lawrence has the bird yet or not." It is possible that the Anhinga might wander some three hundred miles out of its regular range, but until this specimen comes to light and proves not to be a Cormorant, I do not think it should stand for the only authentic state record.

As to the breeding Chestnut-collared Longspurs: "This is one of the birds Capt. B. F. Goss and myself captured in June, 1893, on the great plains in the northwestern part of this county. We found a nest containing four eggs and another nearly finished. Now here I must say we were not careful enough about the identification. I shot the female bird and Mr. Goss as well as myself found it a true Longspur and on account of the black wing-coverts we called it the chestnut-collared. We did not save the bird. We were collecting eggs then and we only shot the birds for identification, but never saved any after identified." I think we may safely refuse to accept the determination of this bird, so far out of the known breeding range of the supposed species, by even so accomplished an ornithologist as was Captain Goss.

Mr. Schoenebeck's list contains so many notes of real value that it seems unfortunate that Mr. Coale has selected the few records so obviously based on error for re-publication in 'The Auk.'

While on the subject of Wisconsin bird records, I wish to correct an error

in the 'Birds of Wisconsin' (Bull. Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc., III, p. 124, 1903) for which I am in a way accountable. This is the inclusion in the Wisconsin list of the Long-tailed Chickadee (*Penthestes atricapillus septentrionalis*). Although some of the specimens in question were identified by no less an authority than Doctor Coues, it seems best to drop the subspecies from the state list, as the Long-tailed Chickadee, as now understood, is not known to range to this state, and I now believe the specimens then referred to it were only full plumaged winter examples of *atricapillus* proper.—N. MASTER, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

Rare Virginia Birds.—There has been received by the U. S. National Museum, from Capt. Geo. D. Hitchens of Smiths Island, Virginia, the following birds, all having been taken at that place.

The Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) received in May, 1909, which is as far as known the first record for Virginia.

The Dovekie (*Alle alle*), a specimen was shot January 8, 1912, and sent in the flesh to the Museum. This species had been recorded previously from Smiths Island.

The Razor-billed Auk (*Alca torda*), a specimen was shot March 29, 1912, and sent to the Museum in the flesh, and upon preparing the specimen it was found to be in a much emaciated condition.—EDWARD J. BROWN, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

Notes from Boulder County, Colo.—The following are supplementary to the status of the species as given in Selater's Birds of Colorado.

Ixobrychus exilis. LEAST BITTERN.—In the Auk, 1911, I recorded the nesting of this species near Boulder in June, 1910. Another nest was found in the same place on July 9, 1911, with five eggs. They were all hatched by July 20, and one of the young was seen by Dr. Morley out of the nest on July 30. These two nesting records are apparently the second and third for the state.

Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis. ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.—This is the only hawk at all common in the winter on the plains of Boulder Co. I have observed it frequently, singly or two and sometimes three in the course of a trip between the following dates of arrival and departure: Nov. 27, 1909–Mar. 19, 1910; Oct. 30, 1910–Mar. 14, 1911; Oct. 15, 1911–Mar. 31, 1912. A specimen was brought to the museum of the University of Colorado on Feb. 10, 1910.

Glaucidium gnoma pinicola. ROCKY MOUNTAIN PYGMY OWL.—This small owl was fairly common in the city of Boulder from the first week of January to the middle of February, 1912. One bird was found dead and others were observed in various parts of the city; the number of individuals of course may not have been over three or four, as they were observed singly. On two occasions (at 8 A. M.) I saw this owl feeding on a bird about the size of an English Sparrow. They appeared to be active at all times of the day.